

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14254 131959Z

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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FROM ARS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PEARL BAILEY LOOKS FORWARD TO AFRICAN VISIT

PARIS, MAY 13--PEARL BAILEY --SINGER, ACTRESS, DIPLOMAT, HUMANIST--IS LOOKING FORWARD WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM TO HER FIRST VISIT TO AFRICA. "I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE SOONER, MUCH SOONER," SHE TOLD AFRICAN JOURNALISTS DURING A STOPOVER HERE.

"IT IS SOMETHING I HAVE WANTED TO DO FOR A LONG TIME, THE MORE SO SINCE I MADE SO MANY AFRICAN FRIENDS AT THE UNITED NATIONS," SHE SAID. MISS BAILEY IS A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE WORLD ORGANIZATION THIS YEAR, PART OF A LONGSTANDING AMERICAN PROGRAM TO BRING PROMINENT PERSONS FROM OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT INTO CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE WORKINGS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZATION.

"THEY DID NOT EXPECT ME TO MAKE ANY SPEECHES AT THE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14254 131959Z

U.N., BUT WHEN I FEEL SOMETHING STRONGLY," SAID MISS

BAILEY, "I HAVE TO SAY IT. SO AFTER ONE VICIOUS AND UNTRUE ATTACK ON THE U.S., I ASKED OUR AMBASSADOR FOR PERMISSION TO MAKE THE REPLY. HE WAS SURPRISED, BUT SAID TO GO AHEAD, AND I DID. THE DELEGATE WHO HAD MADE THE ATTACK WAS EQUALLY TAKEN ABACK AND SAID MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE SUNG MY COMMENTS INSTEAD. LATER WE HAD A FRIENDLY CHAT IN THE LOUNGE--AND ALL THE OTHER DELEGATES WERE STRAINING TO HEAR WHAT WE WERE SAYING," SHE ADDED.

BUT MISS BAILEY DOES NOT PLAN ANY SPEECHES IN LIBERIA OR SENEGAL, OR IN THE NEAR EASTERN COUNTRIES SHE WILL VISIT FIRST. "I AM GOING TO SEE HOW PEOPLE LIVE," SHE SAID, "VISIT SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS, AND HOPEFULLY SOME HOMES. MAYBE WE CAN EXCHANGE RECIPES; I'VE WRITTEN FIVE BOOKS YOU KNOW, INCLUDING A COOKBOOK."

MISS BAILEY'S DEEP RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT IS EVIDENT IN ALL THAT SHE SAYS. HER GREATEST WISH IS FOR PEACE AND THE CHANCE FOR EVERY HUMAN BEING TO LEAD A USEFUL, SATISFYING LIFE. SHE READILY ADMITS TO HER 58 YEARS, WHICH DO NOT SHOW, SAYING, "I JUST WANT TO DO THE BEST I CAN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. I HAVE NO MILLIONS AND AM NOT SEEKING THAT KIND OF RICHNESS."

THERE IS ROOM FOR MORE COMPASSION IN THE WORLD, MISS BAILEY TOLD THE JOURNALISTS. "FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER EVERY RESOLUTION IS INTRODUCED IN THE UN, EACH DELEGATE SHOULD GO HOME AND LOOK INTO THE EYES OF HIS WIFE, HIS MOTHER, HIS CHILDREN. THEN HE SHOULD GO BACK THE NEXT DAY AND DECIDE HOW TO VOTE. GOD IN HEAVEN HAS COMPASSION; WHY NOT MEN?" SHE ASKS.

IT IS AN ATTITUDE SHE FEELS WILL BE SHARED BY MANY IN AFRICA. ITEM.

NOTE: AIRMAILING PHOTOS TO DAKAR AND MONROVIA.
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